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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2018

LONE TREE ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES CREATIVE TEAM FOR AUGUST WILSON'S "FENCES"

Stellar Cast Is Rich with Actors from Stage and Screen

LONE TREE, CO – Continuing its tradition of presenting remarkable professional theater in the South Metro area, the Lone Tree Arts Center announces the creative team for August Wilson's *Fences*, April 4 - 21. Director **Wren T. Brown** joins LTAC for the first time to direct the play, which stars TV, movie, and stage veterans **Esau Pritchett** as Troy Maxson and **Julanne Chidi Hill** as Rose.

Wren T. Brown is the co-founder, with Israel Hicks, of Ebony Repertory Theatre in Los Angeles, the first African-American professional theatre company in that city. Under his leadership, ERT has produced Ovation Award and NAACP Theatre Award-winning productions of August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*, Regina Taylor's *Crowns*, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin In the Sun*, and Clarke Peters' *Five Guys Named Moe*. Brown currently serves on the board of Antioch University, Los Angeles, and has formerly served on the board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild, the Friends of Washington Preparatory High School, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and the Charles R. Drew University. As an actor, Brown has appeared in the films *Waiting to Exhale*, *Heart and Souls*, *Under Siege 2: Dark Territory*, *The Dinner*, *Hollywood Shuffle*, *Biker Boyz*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Midnight Clear*, and David Mamet's *Edmond*. On television, Brown co-starred as Whoopi Goldberg's brother and comic foil in NBC's *Whoopi* and was a regular in *Flipper: The New Adventures*, as well as CBS's *Bless This House*. Most recently, Brown has been seen on *Being Mary Jane*, *Grey's Anatomy* (recurring), and as the voice of Virgil Simpson on *The Simpsons*. Wren will next be seen in the Fall 2018 season of the Emmy-award winning Amazon series *Transparent*.

Esau Pritchett (*Troy Maxson*) has performed in many Shakespearean productions as well as contemporary plays and recently played the title role in August Wilson's *King Hedley II*. He has been featured on the long-running crime dramas *Law and Order*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, and *Law and Order: SVU*. He is also featured in HBO's crime drama *The Night Of*, and has made appearances on the

Netflix series' *Orange Is the New Black* and Marvel's *Iron Fist*. In 2017, Pritchett appeared as a guest star on NBC's *Chicago PD* and will appear as a guest star on NBC's *The Blacklist* in 2018.

Julanne Chidi Hill (*Rose*) is a film and television actress known for her roles on *Weeds* and *My Name Is Earl*. Most recently she has guest-starred in *Black-ish*, *Ray Donovan*, and *Gilmore Girls*. Film credits include *Crank: High Voltage*, *The Take*, *Lackawanna Blues*, and *Barbershop 2: Back in Business*. Theater credits include *The Odyssey* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *The Women of Brewster Place* (Celebration Theatre), *Bootycandy* (Celebration Theatre), *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe Revisited* (Davidson/Valentini Theatre), and *Die, Mommie, Die!* (Celebration Theatre).

Bradford Leo Barnes (*Lyons*) received his Bachelors of Arts in both Acting and Dance from California State East Bay. He was awarded Best Male Performer in an Ensemble for his role in Sam Shepard's *Tongues* at Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Washington, DC. He recently received his MFA in Acting at the University of Southern California. Regional credits include *Head of Passes* (Mark Taper Forum), Pacific Playwrights Festival (South Coast Repertory), *How the Princh Stole Christmas* (El Portal), and other readings at Pasadena Playhouse and The Boston Court. Film credits include *The Leicester Square Fight* and *American Folk*.

Leonard Earl Howze (*Bono*) made his feature film debut in the box office hit *Barbershop*. He later reprised his role in the film's sequel, *Barbershop 2: Back in Business*. He currently stars on the CBS sitcom *Kevin Can Wait*. He also stars in the Netflix action/comedy *The True Memoirs of an International Assassin*. Most recently he starred in the gripping indie drama *Live Cargo*, which was well received at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival. He also appears in the independent film, *Brave New Jersey*, which premiered at the 2016 Austin Film Festival. Other notable film credits include *Antwone Fisher*, *The Ringer*, *A Thousand Words*, *The Lone Ranger*, and *Faults*. In addition to his film roles, television credits include a series regular role on TNT's *Memphis Beat*, and guest-starring roles in *Masters of Sex*, *Shameless*, *NCIS*, and *My Name is Earl*, among many others. Howze received his BFA in Theater Arts from SUNY Purchase. He also is an alumnus of the renowned Los Angeles County High School for the Arts.

Darryl Alan Reed (*Gabriel*) is best known for *(500) Days of Summer*, *Sweet and Lowdown*, *Mercury Rising*, and *The American President*. Other film credits include *Christmas in Compton*, *Deal with It*, *One Tough Bastard*, and *Cold Justice*. Television credits include Rondo/Raymond Washington on TNT's *Rizzoli & Isles* and guest appearances on ABC Family's *The Fosters*, CBS' *NCIS*, ABC's *Desperate Housewives*, ABC's *Brothers & Sisters*, NBC's *ER*, and AMC's *Mad Men*. Theatre credits include Mama Jones/Chase Adams in *Dinah Was* (Gramercy Theatre); and regionally, as Fat Rev in *the road weeps, the well runs dry* (Los Angeles Theatre Center), Iago in *Othello* (Grandel Theatre), Donald in *You Can't Take It With You* (Brentwood Theatre), and The Viewing Room and Walter in *Inspecting Carol* (Steppenwolf Theatre).

Jay Reeves (*Cory*) is a film and television actor. Film credits include *Stuck*, *Benny Got Shot*, *Rehab*, *Good Kidd*, *The Secret Weapon*, *Listen*, and *Realistic Realities*. Television credits include *K.C. Undercover*, *Crowded*, and *Newsreaders*.

Local actress **Nylah Langford** (*Raynell*) round out the cast.

Denver actors **Betty Hart** and **Gregory Tucker** will understudy roles in the production.

Veteran Los Angeles-based **Ed Haynes** is the Set Designer, DU Assistant Professor **Janice Benning Lacek** is the Costume Designer, Denver-based **Jason Ducat** is the Sound Designer, Los Angeles-based **Karyn Lawrence** is the Lighting Designer, and longtime Denver Center Theatre Company Technical Director **Dan McNeil** is the Technical Consultant. **Mister Erock** is the Stage Manager.

August Wilson, winner of two Pulitzer Prizes and a Tony Award, is widely regarded as one of the finest playwrights ever to write for the American stage. His American Century Cycle, which traces the African-American experience through ten plays, each set in a different decade, stands as a staggering achievement. *Fences*, the sixth play in the Cycle, revolves around the life of garbage collector Troy Maxson. When his rise through the Negro baseball leagues hit the ceiling of racial prejudice, Maxson turned away from a world of unfulfilled promises and denied opportunities. But in 1957, his son Cory, an emerging football star, sees the world through very different eyes, and his wife Rose yearns for an outlet for her love. *Fences* won the Tony Award for Best Play, Best Actor, and Best Featured Actress; the Pulitzer Prize; and a Drama Desk Award. The 2012 Broadway revival received a record 10 Tony nominations, winning for Best Revival of a Play, Best Actor, and Best Actress.

Dates & Tickets

Preview Performance: Wednesday, April 4 at 7:30pm.

Evening Performances: April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21.

Matinee Performances: April 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 21.

All tickets are \$35-60. Tickets may be purchased by calling 720-509-1000, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm or at www.LoneTreeArtsCenter.org.

This performance is made possible in part thanks to the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, and National Endowment for the Arts. Park Meadows is the 2017-2018 Season Sponsor.

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